## **REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is presented in order to cancel previous claims 31-60, and replace them with new claims 61-74 that are identical to the claims allowed in corresponding Japanese Application JP 2004-017400. The present U.S. application and the JP 2004-017400 application are directed to the same subject matter.

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with the filing of a Request for Participation in the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Program between the JPO and the U.S. PTO. The new claims 61-74 correspond with the claims of the JP 2004-017400 application in accordance with the claims correspondence table filed together with the Request for Participation in the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH).

Respectfully submitted,

Kouji MIURA et al.

/Charles R Watts/ By: 2008.11.12 13:35:14 -05'00'

> Charles R. Watts Registration No. 33,142 Attorney for Applicants

CRW/asd Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 November 12, 2008